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DEFENSE PROCUREMENT PANEL TO MEET THIS WEEK  
WASHINGTON

A special commission created by President Reagan is beginning two days of start-up meetings in its mission to study Pentagon buying practices that have sparked public and congressional concern about military waste.

The chairman of the 15-member panel, David Packard, said the group would meet today with Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger before beginning its first meetings as a commission.

"These meetings will focus on administrative procedures, commission objectives, priorities and operations," Packard, a former deputy defense secretary and chairman of the Hewlett-Packard Co., said in a statement.

The panel, called the Blue Ribbon Commission on Defense Management, will hear presentations Friday from Norman R. Augustine, an author and expert on systems acquisition, and Robert Fuhrman, a Lockheed Corp. group president, Packard's statement said.

Packard also announced the commission had hired Washington lawyer Rhett B. Dawson as its staff director and former CIA public affairs director Herbert E. Hetu as its counselor for public affairs.

Reagan established the commission on June 17, promising it would be allowed to operate independently of his administration and offer recommendations on defense management, organization, decision-making and procurement.

The president said the panel was needed because of "a public misconception," due to stories of outrageously priced parts, that the Pentagon was not addressing problems in the procurement system.